



BENT RIM BUGLE

The official newsletter of the MMBA - Issue #76 - summer 06

20^{BRB}
YEARS

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURES SCORE CARD PG. 5
REI PARK TOOL SCHOOL PG. 14





The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.

The Bent Rim Bugle is published four times a year (March, June, Sept, Dec.) by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and distributed to all members. It is made possible by volunteers and riders like you.

Bent Rim Bugle

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Visit the MMBA on the web at:
www.mmba.org

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New BRB Logo/Masthead by
Scott Zelazny
Cover photo by Bryan Mitchell

Covering the Dirt for 20 Years

You may not know but the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) began well before the MMBA. In fact, it's one of the primary reasons we have an MMBA to begin with. This year we are celebrating the BRB's 20th anniversary with quotes from our prior editors/publishers. Thanks to Bryan Mitchell and all our contributors for adding to the BRB's successful history and tradition.
– Todd Scott

Craig Stutzky, the Bent Rim Bugle's first publisher

"In the beginning there was just an idea. The idea was that mountain bikers in Michigan should have their own newsletter so they would know what the heck was going on. It could have articles that were serious or funny, calendar of events, race results, pictures, cartoons, and whatever else seemed like a good idea at the time. It sounded so simple back then, back at Pando II when I first came up with idea for the BRB (which was named later by Mr. "I-don't-want-to-get-involved-but-I've-got-all-these-great-ideas-Prueett".) And look what it has grown into!

"The Michigan Mountain Bike Association was another great idea, but it had never fully gotten off the ground. I feel it is very necessary to the successful growth of mountain biking in Michigan and it is my sincere hope that one of the very talented and dedicated people out there will tackle this idea and bring it into existence. The BRB staff is willing to help out with the simple things like mailing lists and contact people. The energy is there... we just need the leaders."

Bonnie Alsum, BRB publisher (1988-1990)

"I've reluctantly accepted the challenge of becoming full editor on one condition: This baby better darn well become self-sustaining! The BRB started small. Craig and I Xeroxed the first copy on the sly at our respective full-time jobs hoping they wouldn't notice. Our grassroots advertiser supported newsletter has grown in size and popularity since then, forcing us to spend more on each issue. Remember... this is your newsletter! Get involved, don't count on one or two people to cover everything that's happening in the Michigan area!"

Dwain Abramowski, BRB publisher (1990 to 2000)

"The mountain biking community that has been responsible for the BRB has always been a circle of friends, a circle of racers and of concerned riders, a circle of volunteers, on the trail. The BRB has served as a reservoir of those circles of power and will attempt to do the same in the future..."



MMBA NEWS

From the desk of Executive Director - Todd Scott

Thanks Senator Levin

The President's 2007 proposed budget includes a 6% cut to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Areas (RTCA) program. A coalition including IMBA, the American Hiking Society, and the National Recreation and Parks Association approached the MMBA for help. They needed a Democratic Senator co-sponsor a "Dear Colleague" letter in support of the RTCA program funding. The MMBA worked with Senator Carl Levin and he agreed to circulate the letter along with Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine. We helped get 19 Senators now signed onto the letter, including Senator Debbie Stabenow. The letter has been presented to the Appropriations Subcommittee for the Interior.

Alice Yates from Senator Levin's office said there's been "tremendous support" for the letter.

With a little luck, this letter will reverse the proposed budget cuts, or at a minimum raise awareness and benefits of this trails program.

Statewide Trails Planning

Our Michigan RTCA office as well as the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance are spearheading a Statewide Trails Planning program. This program is developing a vision and action plan which "will lay the groundwork for the future of Michigan's trail system." The MMBA is actively participating in this program along with other trail groups across the state.

At the program's kickoff workshop, DNR Director Becky Humphries was a keynote speaker. She began by talking about the value of trails and partnerships before bringing up the IMBA report card, our B+ grade, how Michigan compares with other states, and how great it is being near the top.

After sharing this with Dennis Hansen, one of the MMBA founders, he said, "You got to be kidding! I guess mountain biking has arrived!"

Environment Michigan Campaign

The Environment Michigan group has started a Million Acres Project to help designate 10% of the DNR land holdings as state natural areas. The problem? Under current law, mountain biking is a prohibited activity in state natural areas.

In discussions with Environment Michigan, banning biking is an unintended consequence that they didn't realize until we'd contacted them. They added, "Our goal is not to limit mountain biking but rather to get more areas protected for wildlife and recreation."

We agree and are currently working with them to come up with a mountain biking exemption that would "help to get more lands protected for all types of non-motorized recreation."

Until that exemption is in place, we're asking MMBA members hold off on supporting the Million Acres Project.

Protect Your FUNds

The MMBA has endorsed the Citizens Supporting Proposal 06-01 Campaign which got underway in May.

As you know, the conservation and recreation programs of the DNR are funded primarily by users through fees, permits, and licenses. If Michigan voters approve Proposal 06-1 on this November's ballot, it would prevent the Governor and Legislature from diverting these recreation and conservation-related restricted funds to other state programs.

Though mountain bikers haven't suffered from any diverted funds, the precedent was set when former Governor John Engler raided the Waterways Fund for \$10 million.

MMBA.org Use Soars

In May of 2005, the mmba.org web site averaged 2,016 visits every day. In May of 2006, it rose 39% to 2,803. On the day after the Fort Custer race we had an unbelievable 3,979 visits in one day!

DNR Updates

Blame it on election year politics: The DNR Land Consolidation Program on is hold. This program is was in the middle of evaluating all DNR surplus land and determining which ones should be kept and which ones should be sold. Through the years, the DNR has been given a lot of property through tax foreclosure and most of these properties don't fit with the DNR's mission. The DNR was looking to sell these and use the proceeds to buy land that does fit their mission (e.g. in holdings.)

Through this program, the DNR was looking at selling a former chunk of Proud Lake known as the Nike Missile base. We've been working with the DNR, Oakland County Parks, and others to ensure this property remains as parkland.

Motor Vehicle Pass sales are up 8% this year compared with this time last year. Did you know that 16% of them are sold to out-of-state visitors? Camping reservations are up 1.5% with cancellations down 17%. This mirrors an approximate 2% increase in Michigan Tourism seen this year so far. This is good news for our state parks since they rely heavily on these user fees ever since the legislature eliminated the taxpayer support.

There are no recent updates on the Comben case currently before our State Supreme Court. As mentioned in previous newsletters, if we lose this court decision, our main grant source for park land acquisitions could lose hundreds of millions of dollars.

North Country Trail Updates

Rob Corbett is no longer the executive director for the North Country Trail Association. The position has been eliminated for now. Jennifer Tripp, the Director of Development and Communications has stepped up and will assume some of Rob's duties. They've also hired additional Regional Trail Coordinators to help shift some of the workload to a regional level.

There's been conflicting reports on whether or not the NCT is open to mountain biking in the U.P.'s Hiawatha National Forest. It seems the final answer (for now) is the trail is open unless posted closed. Apparently there are some closed sections on the eastern portion of the National Forest. Our contact at the Hiawatha, who is also a mountain biker, says that while the NCT may be open, mountain bikers might find the trail disappointing to ride. Bruno's Run or Grand Island are his preferred riding destinations within the Hiawatha.

National Forest Updates

The Big M parking lot and entry road are being paved this year and should be completed by the time you read this. A well is also getting installed.

The MMBA is opposing the President's plan to sell national forest land to fund the Secure Rural Schools program. Our national forests are a recreational asset to all the generations that follow. It is simply wrong for this generation to sell portions of them in order to fund today's budget shortfalls. If this plan goes through, we could lose up to 5,677 acres in our Hiawatha and Ottawa forests.

Top 100 Bike Shops

Congratulations to the four Michigan bike shops that made the Top 100 NBDA retailer listing: the Ada Bike Shop, Brick Wheels, Two Wheel Tango, and Breakaway Bikes.

400,000 Kids

In May, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports distributed **Get Moving, Michigan** brochures to 400,000 Michigan children. The brochure promotes being active, walking/riding to school, and "the joys of pedaling our bicycles along the many regional trails that wind through our state." The brochure mentions the MMBA web site is as an on-line source for mountain biking trail information.

Pontiac Lake to Highland

Oakland County Planning is starting to study a connection between the county headquarters in Waterford (along Telegraph Rd.) to Downtown Highland. This trail would connect Pontiac Lake and Highland as we mentioned in earlier reports.

Leadership Academy

The MMBA recently participated in a Leadership Academy session for future DNR, DEQ and MDA leaders. Other invited stakeholder groups included Trout Unlimited and the Sierra Club. The session focused on improving the DNR, including its relationship with stakeholder groups like

the MMBA. In speaking with others afterwards, it seems the MMBA was invited because we're viewed as a leading up-and-coming stakeholder group.

Hungerford Mountain Bike Trail

The Forest Service is beginning a planning process to analyze the Hungerford Mountain Bike Trail. Options include maintaining the trail in its present location, relocating the trail to another area, or abolishing/conversion of the trail to other uses. They understand the trail requires maintenance, additional signing, and physical barriers to deter horse use and motorized uses from affecting the riding quality of the trail. They are not seeing much use of this trail system by mountain bikers and are interested in input from those who do ride the system at Hungerford to help them in their planning strategy.

The MMBA hosted an on-line survey and got 55 responses. That was more than the Forest Service expected. As of now, the survey is closed but if you have any comments please send them to Kathy Bietau, kbietau@fs.fed.us

In addition we wrote a trail review with some proposed solutions. It's on-line at <http://mmba.org/library/trails/HungerfordReview.pdf>



Final Announcements

Congratulations to MMBA member Eric Isaacsen. Eric was recently awarded a Student Leadership Scholarship at Kirtland Community College in part for his work as former president the MMBA Northern Chapter and organizer of the Michigan Bike Festival. Adds Eric, "Who says volunteering doesn't pay?"

A warm thanks to Aaron Oberlin for his recent donation to the MMBA Northeast Chapter.








Remember Thomas Cray? Thomas was responsible for two major revisions of the MMBA web site. He's since moved to Chicago where among other things he's selling custom longboards (skateboards.) He's currently working on a longboard carrier for mountain bikes. You can check out his products on the web at www.crayfishlongboards.com.

Correction: In the last issue we listed the wrong phone number for the Harbor Springs Cycling Club. The correct number is 231.526.2594.

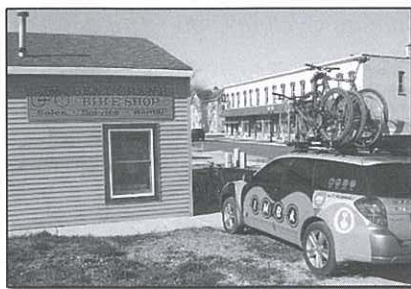
Get your very own MMBA pint glass for \$9.00!!!
Visit the web site at:
www.MMBA.org
and click on the store.



Michigan Legislatures Score Card – Summer 2006

971 & 972	Imposes new conditions and oversight when the DNR wants to sell state park land		We're working with other organizations to further optimize these bills and protect our state parks from being sold off just to pay the bills. The bills have passed the Senate.
1224	Updates the Michigan Vehicle Code to clarify bicyclists rights on the road		This is the bill the MMBA, LMB, and MTGA have been working on with Senator McManus. It's passed the Senate and now in the House Transportation Committee.
1225	Require driver's education regarding bicycles using our the roads		Currently in Senate Transportation Committee
4555	Prevents counties from spending set-aside bike funding to pave dirt roads		Signed by the Governor into law on 3/29/06
5628	Takes \$4.4 million from DNR state forest budget and gives it to local communities and schools.		Passed the House and stuck in a Senate Committee. This is the legislature taking money from the DNR and we're strongly opposed to it.
5663	Would certify traffic accident prevention driver safety courses that included instruction on safely interacting with bicyclists, and pedestrians.		Awaiting a vote in the House
5814	Lets local governments block the DNR from buying land. Increases the taxes the DNR pays on parkland. Lets local government foreclose on DNR land if the legislature doesn't pay the taxes.		Awaiting a vote in the House. This is simply an evil bill that lets local governments control DNR decisions. The MMBA is strongly opposes this. If this weren't a family publication, we'd probably opt for a different hand signal.

IMBA visits northern Michigan



Kristin & Ryan from the IMBA Trail Care Crew made a stop in Northern Michigan to help us on some local trail issues. First stop on Friday where the IMBA crew visited Mt. Holiday in Traverse City who's now moving forward

on some bike trail plans with lift service. The next stop was the Bent Crank Bike Shop in Manistee where Brian

hosted IMBA, MMBA, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC), and others. Saturday and Sunday were spent leading a trail building school on the GTRLC's Arcadia property, where a 17-mile multi-use trail is being developed.



MICHIGAN'S LARGEST DEALER



MICHIGAN'S LARGEST DEALER

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Trek	Fisher	Lemond	Klein	Felt	Haro	DK

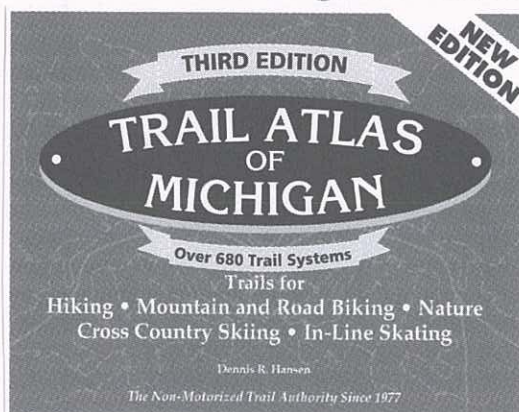
Our Mission: Serve Metro Detroit with the best product, service, and cycling experience.



The Michigan Cycling Podcast is a free radio-style program for the Michigan Cycling Community. The show is produced weekly March through October and monthly November through February. Each program shares news, features, and event information. Visit the website for current & back episodes.

michcycling.com

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\$34.95 plus \$2.10 tax. Shipping / handling are FREE.
Hansen Publishing Company, 1801 Birchwood Drive
Okemos, MI 48864

MMBA in Lansing!

Board member Pat Audet and I were in Lansing on June 7th for a Legislative Trails Day hosted by the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, MRPA, and MACPRO.



It was a very successful day, in large part because we had the best display location. Pat and I were at the event entrance and we acted like Wall-Mart greeters. In return, we met quite a few legislators, discussed mountain bike trails within their districts, and more. All took copies of the Bent Rim Bugle and a few asked to be added to our mailing list. Some highlights include:

- Rep. Huizenga talking about getting a real mountain bike and doing some MMBA group rides.
- Talking with Rep. Acciavatti about biking, triathlons, and riding at Stony Creek.
- Discussing the Rouge Park trail with both Senator Leland and his son, Rep. Leland.

We also met with Senator Birkholz and presented her with our MMBA Legislator of the Year award. She was very thankful not only for the award but for what MMBA members do for the trails and advocacy. Her sons are



Cris, Gordie, and Marty selling merchandise and memberships at the MMBA tent during the Fort Custer XC race in May.

MMBA Testimony in Support of Senate Bills 1224 & 1225

Thank you, Senator Gilbert and members of the Senate Transportation Committee.

In 1899, Horatio Earle of Detroit was elected chief consul of Michigan's League of American Wheelmen. His vision was to improve Michigan's roads and laws to make bicycling safer and more efficient. A year later he successfully ran for a seat in the Michigan Senate.

And to give you an idea of the political strength of cyclists at the turn of the century, he ran on a League of American Wheelman ticket.

In the Senate, Earle he introduced legislation that greatly shaped our state's transportation landscape, some of which created a Michigan department of transportation and was our first state highway commissioner.

I have no doubt that if Horatio Earle were alive today, he'd either be on this committee or speaking before in favor of these two bills.

Senate Bills 1224 and 1225 have one common theme: Safety. Cyclists and pedestrians are among the most vulnerable members of our transportation community. This group represents a disproportionate fourteen percent of all highway fatalities.

We realize that these bills alone will not make our roads safer overnight. However, they are one component of a campaign to make Michigan a safer place to ride a bike. Our groups and members are working with MDOT and other road agencies across the state to improve Michigan's cycling facilities; to take advantage of federal non-motorized grants; and to keep up with the Chicago's and Denver's.

Now, you may ask why the Michigan Mountain Biking Association supports these bills. We like to ride on narrow dirt trails and actually look for obstacles to ride over.

The fact is that more and more mountain bikers are riding to their local trails using roads and rail-trails. We often ride the roads when the trails are muddy or snow-covered. We commute to work on bikes. We want to be able to safely ride downtown for ice cream with our families. And sometimes we even trade in our fat tires for the skinny ones.

Todd Scott

MMBA Executive Director

Michigan Bike Festival

September 15-17, 2006

Trail Rides!
Night Rides!
Live Music!
Social Bonfire!



Road Rides!
Kid's Events!
Bike Games!
Free Camping!

A Celebration of the Bicycle!

The third annual Michigan Bike Festival promises to be even bigger and better. Returning will be the band that was once voted the best local band in Northwestern Michigan, the Jelly Roll Blues Band. What better way to enjoy a Friday night than by hanging out by the social bonfire and listening to great music!

Saturday and Sunday promise to be busy days with organized road rides, trail rides, bike games, Kid's events and more. New this year, are two endurance mountain bike races - a 6-hour and a 12-hour race. This is the season finale of the Fun Promotions' endurance series, which includes seven events around Michigan. A family adventure race, sponsored by River Rats Adventure Racing, is also planned. Designed for kids, this race will be all about fun and challenges for children of all ages. Relax on Saturday evening to more live music.

Proceeds to support Hanson Hills and the Northern Chapter of the MMBA. Both are 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organizations.

Hanson Hills Recreation Area: (888) 876-2196

For the latest information visit us on the web: www.michiganbikefestival.com

MMBA Member Shop: Cycle to Fitness in Livonia

Earlier this year Daniel Sterling took a major step by expanding his basement bicycle repair hobby to a full-time family bike shop. Daniel's always been heavily into biking. He's been an "avid rider for quite awhile", has raced mountain bikes, and worked at a couple different shops around Metro Detroit. He loves working on bikes, testing new products, and getting more people out riding, so opening a shop was an easy decision.



What makes the shop unique?

From the start, Daniel wanted to focus on getting families out riding together, especially on the many trails throughout the area. He wants to pull in more than just your typical bike guy – not that there's anything wrong with them.

The shop is cozy, customers can't get lost or overlooked, and you can expect personalized service. You can also expect that Daniel has tried and tested most everything in the shop and can give you feedback on what works and what doesn't.

Any surprises after opening the shop?

Daniel said there weren't really. It's more or less as he expected. However, he may not have expected being KHS's largest Michigan dealer so soon.

Any discounts for MMBA members?

Yes! Cycle to Fitness gives MMBA members 10% off everything, even sale items.

What about that CPS race repair offer?

Cycle to Fitness is open Fridays before each CPS race at 6:00am! If you drop your bike off the Friday before a CPS race at 9:00am, your bike will be ready to be picked up at 5:00pm. It's sort of like a dry cleaners quick turnaround service but the shop also includes free bagels.

What about those high gas prices?

It's no secret that the high fuel prices have helped get more people thinking about biking. As Daniel says in his latest newspaper advertisement, we have your solution to \$3.00 a gallon prices.

Other vital information

Location: 10960 Farmington Road in a small plaza south of Plymouth in Livonia. It's not too far north of Hines Drive.
Phone: 734.266.8203
Web site: <http://www.cycletofitness.com/>

Cycle to Fitness Group Rides

Visit www.cycletofitness.com for details

shop group rides		
Every other Sundays at 9:30 AM	Leaves from the shop	Mountain bikes riding on the area roads and trails. All skill levels.
Every other Tuesdays at 6:30 PM	Leaves from the shop	A fast-paced road ride
Every other Wednesdays at 8:30 PM	Car pool from the shop to Island Lake	Mountain bike night ride
Every other Thursday at 5:30 PM	Car pool from the shop to trails within an hour's drive	All skill levels mountain bike ride
Every Friday at 6:30 PM	Leaves from the shop	Girls Night Out ride either on the road or at Maybury



2005 Collegiate Division II
Short Track MTB Champion
Brent Bookwalter.
Photo : Kevin Holldbar

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Give your body the clean, healthy fuel it craves. You'll Feel Great, enjoying consistent energy and endurance no matter how long you exercise. When you Fuel Right you also significantly reduce fatigue and post-workout recovery time.

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Single serving \$2.29
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HEED/High Energy Electrolyte Drink
Single serving \$1.49
32 serving \$17.95

Endurolytes/Electrolyte Replenishment
120 capsules \$17.95

Hammer Gel/Rapid Energy Fuel
Single serving \$1.15
26 serving jug \$18.95

Hammer Bar/Ultra Energy Bar
50 gram bar \$2.49

Recoverite/Recovery Drink
Single serving \$2.29
32 serving \$44.95



MMBA "06"
C.P.S.
Championship Point Series



2006 MMBA Championship Point Series Schedule

In the spirit of bringing Michigan's premier grassroots racing series back to it's advocacy roots - we are pleased to announce the 2006 MMBA Championship Points Series schedule:

Sunday, April 23rd
Yankee Springs Trail Benefit – TT



Sunday, May 7th
Fort Custer Stampede Trail Benefit –XC

Sunday, June 4th
Hanson Hills Challenge - XC



Saturday, July 8th
Boyne Challenge – Marathon XC

Saturday, August 26th
Maybury Trail Benefit – XC



Sunday, September 24th
Addison Oaks Fall Classic - XC

We're making improvements in 2006! We've introduced a new venue, Saturday races, improved race day logistics and endurance based XC races. More details to follow soon – so stay tuned!

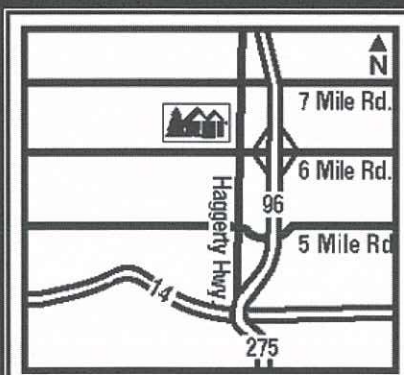
Our goal is to bring the value of the MMBA CPS – back to the racers, their families and back to the trail. To this end the 2006 race schedule will help increase fundraising for trail advocacy. Money generated by the Trail Benefits will directly fund ongoing MMBA advocacy work and trail improvements.

Your trails, your backyard – all supported by you and the MMBA.

REI Troy
 766 East Big Beaver Rd.
 Troy, Michigan 48083
 (248)689-4402
www.rei.com/troy



REI Northville
 17559 Haggerty Rd
 Northville, Michigan 48168
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www.rei.com/northville



Maintenance Packages

Basic Tune-up **Members \$40 Non-Mem. \$50**
 (Full inspection, lubrication and adjustment of drivetrain, bearings and brakes. Includes a lateral wheel truing)

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 temperatures! No bugs!
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The Park Tool School at REI

REI is presenting the Park Tool School® bicycle repair classes. This is a unique program for learning bicycle maintenance and repair in a hands-on environment. An REI Certified Technician will be leading the classes. Topics will include basic bicycle maintenance, shift systems, brake systems, and wheel truing basics – everything cyclists need to know for keeping their bicycle rolling smoothly and safely. Tools are provided during class. Park Tool School® student manuals available for purchase. Individual class: \$20 for co-op members, \$30 for non-members. Manuals are \$15.00. Pre-paid registration is required. Questions, contact Danielle Heckman at (248) 689-4402 or dheckma@rei.com.

**See page 14 for Park Tool
 School Dates**

Please check www.rei.com for additional dates of future
 Park Tool School classes.

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OCLV® carbon fiber seatstays reduce weight and add stiffness.

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Cake can handle big fat 2.5" tires for better control.

Single pivot has less flex, less sticktion, and requires less maintenance than multi-pivot designs.

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ShockBridge distributes forces, allowing use of ultra-light tubeset.

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LIGHT MEETS ALL-MOUNTAIN.

Cake

GARY FISHER

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PARK TOOL SCHOOL CLASSES AT REI

REI is presenting the Park Tool School bicycle repair classes.

This is a unique program for learning bicycle maintenance and repair in a hands-on environment. An REI Certified Technician will be leading the classes. Topics will include basic bicycle maintenance, shift systems, brake systems, and wheel truing basics ? everything cyclists need to know for keeping their bicycle rolling smoothly and safely. Tools are provided during class. ParkToolSchool student manuals available for purchase. Individual class: \$20 for co-op members, \$30 for non-members. Manuals are \$15.00. Pre-paid registration is required. Questions, contact customer service at 248-347-2100 ? REI Northville or 248-689-4402 ? REI Troy.



Basic Bike Maintenance

Monday, July 10th at 6pm at REI Northville
Wednesday July 26th at 6pm at REI Northville
Thursday, July 27th at 6pm at REI Troy

Drive Train Maintenance

Monday, August 7th at 6pm at REI Northville and Troy
Monday, August 21st at 6pm at REI Northville and Troy
Wednesday, August 30th at 6pm at REI Northville
Thursday, August 31st at 6pm at REI Troy

Bearing and Brake Adjustment

Monday, September 11th at 6pm at REI Northville and Troy
Monday, September 18th at 6pm at REI Northville and Troy
Wednesday, September 27th at 6pm at REI Northville
Thursday, September 28th at 6pm at REI Troy

Wheel Truing

Monday, Oct 16th at 6pm at REI Northville and REI Troy
Wednesday, October 25th at 6pm at REI Northville
Thursday, October 26th at 6pm at REI Troy

Gear Adjustment

Monday October 9th at REI Northville and REI Troy
Wednesday, November 29th at REI Northville
Thursday, November 30th at REI Troy

2006 U.P. Race Schedule:

July 1: Ride for Glory, Ishpeming, 8 & 18-mile cross country race, contact rideforglory@aol.com

August 12: Ore to Shore, Negaunee/Ishpeming/Marquette, 28 & 48-mile point to point cross country race, 866.370.RACE or www.oretoshore.com

August 19: The Great Deer Chase, 13 & 22-mile cross country race, contact: 906.337.1300 or www.keweenawtrails.com

September 3: Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival, 13 & 21-mile cross country race, contact: 906.289.4303 or www.keweenawadventure.com

September 9: Tour da Woods Mountain Bike Challenge, 15 & 30-mile point to point cross country race, contact: 906.387.2138 or www.annariverpedalers.org

Northern Chapter Copper Harbor Happenings

With near record-breaking temperatures in the 80's over Memorial Day Weekend, summer's here and the time is right for dancing in the seat (or should I say riding in the saddle?). The early arrival of spring in the U.P. has prompted several trail work sessions, including the removal of winter's deadfall and construction of a new 45' cedar boardwalk. An ambitious agenda including almost 8 miles of new singletrack development, a number of bridge and boardwalk constructions, several re-routes and general trail enhancements top the wish list for the Copper Harbor trail crew this season. The new singletrack will include almost 4 miles of a beginner/intermediate rated looped trail network on the county property at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge. The Keweenaw Mountain Trails will connect with the existing CH trail network, which already link the KML and the village. The core members of the CH Club attended the IMBA workshop in Waupaca, WI in April and came away with some good information and knowledge to be implemented on new trail development and sustainable trail management. Plans are in motion for the 13th annual Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival on Sept. 3. The event will feature 21 & 13 mile XC races that have a reputation as the most challenging race course in all of Michigan and a true festival atmosphere in this end of summer classic.

Chapter Chatter

Pontiac Lake Chapter News

What's Happening at PLRA

In April Todd Scott and I attended the DNR Park Planning meeting along with the other park stakeholder group representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to inform and involve the stakeholders in the park planning process. This is the one of several meetings to be conducted in the upcoming months. At least one public meeting is planned to involve all park users and interested parties. This will be an open meeting and all are invited to participate. I will post the date on the bulletin board as soon as I know it.

What does that mean for the MMBA at PLRA? We will represent our proposal to finish the trail system as planned several years ago and perhaps expand the trail system in accordance with the designated usage appropriations. We will work closely with the DNR and other users to work out a system that benefits everyone. This should happen in the next four or five months.

MMBA State Board Representative for PLRA

Because of the happenings at PLRA this year, I am stepping down as the PLRA Board Representative so I can better concentrate my efforts in dealing with chapter issues. I am looking for a suitable replacement to serve in my place. This person should be able to attend quarterly board meetings, additional meetings as required, serve on committees and have knowledge of the MMBA goals and mission. Enthusiasm, commitment and the ability to work with others is required. If you think you are interested, please email me at the address below.

We are also still looking for a CPS representative.

Thank you.

Jody DeLavern,
President PLRA Chapter of the MMBA
pontiaclake@mmba.org

Poto Chapter News

After 10 straight days of rain the clouds parted to shine on the first No-Drop ride of the season on Saturday May 20th. No-drop rides are rides where riders of all ability levels are invited to ride the trail in small groups at their own pace guided by experienced club members with special attention to make sure that no one gets left behind. 30 riders showed up to enjoy the ride and barbecue lunch courtesy of Two Wheel Tango. Two Wheel Tango has again generously offered to sponsor the rides by providing water bottles and food. Please show your thanks to this local shop for their generous support.

Southeast Chapter News

Rouge Park

The Rouge Park trail had its first trail day on May 20th and prior to that, Trips for Kids helped the MMBA by removing 200 trash bags of debris out of the park. Trails Days are scheduled until September of 2006. Plans for 2006 include: finishing up the Trojan loop by building some boardwalks, shoring up a few off camber sections, and finishing up the last part of the flagged sections near Joy Rd. In July, there will be a new section of trail to be flagged and ready to be cut. The trail has been maintained very well and several users (dogs, deers, walkers and riders) have been seen along the trail. The Warrendale Community Organization recently included Rouge Park as part of their "Cool Cities" Grant application for the amount of \$3,500. If we are granted that money there will be a whole lot more to see in the near future. Harvey Santana is scouting new terrain that promises to bring some challenging climbs and single track.

Lakeshore

Lakeshore Park is in pretty good shape right now. We are trying to stay on top of trimming and fixing any problems that creep up, so the trail will be in great shape for the race on July 23. The recent rain did expose some problem spots which will be addressed shortly. The worst of these spots is right after the bridge coming back from the 754 loop -- this spot will be our next priority. The city recently did some landscaping around the new kiosk and it looks great!

ILRA

By the time you read this, we should have approval for 2 out of 3 needed re-routes on both the Blue and Yellow trail. One re-routed section will be the sandy descending turn towards the Blue/Yellow intersection, the other re-route will be the wetlands and badly eroded climb on the yellow as you near the Huron river overlook. These two will be easy to get done over a couple of weekends.

A third re-route, which is waiting approval, will be for the section that parallels the park road up on the ridge. A long time ago, we were forced to use a narrow, badly designed hiking trail switchback. Riders then discovered a wash that they could go straight down. When it finally became too badly treacherous to fix, we bandaged it with the current line down to the road crossing. It has lasted almost 6 years, but it is now endangering a couple of the mature trees, and also the users of the trail when it's dry and dusty. This re-route is going to involve some advanced building techniques and some major bench cutting to do properly, so the district planner is working more closely with us and will require more time to get approval.

Once approval has been granted for the first two re-routes, we'll schedule and post for trail days. Until then, please feel free to carry a small pair of pruning shears on your rides and trim back the face slappers that pop up daily along the corridor.

Also the trail is really getting thick, if anyone has time to trim some sections of the trail please feel free to use loppers and hand tools (not power tools). Remember, the proper cutting should be several feet off the trail and above the trail - think tall riders and low sagging branches. Anything that seems like it might be in the way should be trimmed. Just keep in mind that the plants will encroach back to the trail every season, so feel free to trim back and make the trail width 4 to 8 feet wide, and 10 feet tall. If you do volunteer at any of the trails please forward your hours to the local trail coordinator or local chapter leadership. They will record your hours for the First Across the Finish Line (F.A.F.L.) awards. All volunteers who put in 10 + hours receive a FAFL prize and acknowledgment at the annual MMBA meeting (Feb).

Maybury

We have done some new re-routes, adding a couple of rock drops, log/rock climbs and another rock garden at Maybury. We have also been working on the trail so that winter riding should be approved this year. The race planning is going well and many people have already offered to volunteer their support. If anyone would like to volunteer for the race (mostly day of volunteers) on August 26th to please shoot an e-mail to Mike Flack. Also our roaming Tuesday morning crew has been cutting and trimming, and the group is growing as well. Anyone interested in volunteering at Maybury on Tuesday mornings should contact Dave Poirier or Mike Flack.

-Nick Shue



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NA Engineering



Future Pro? Wyatt Lee hams it up after the Yankee Springs Kids race.



Photo by Bryan Mitchell | www.mountainbikephotographer.com

"Congratulations to Wayne Otter who won the first of four Gary Fisher Cake 2 bikes we're giving away this year. Gary won the bike at Fort Custer on May 7th where he did his first ever mountain bike race."

It's A Girl!

As you may recall, we recently named Sarah Manning the MMBA Volunteer of the Year for all her work and dedication to the Mountain Kids and other MMBA programs. Now she and husband Matt have an even greater award.

Their first child!

Campbell Louise Manning was born 5/24/06 @ 3:54 AM. She weighed in at 6 lb 11 oz and 19" long.

All are doing great.

Congratulations Sarah & Matt!!!



Did you know? Lakeshore Park in Novi was once Dodge State Park #2. According to Matt Wiktorowski from City of Novi Parks, the park was originally a beach and campground. "The foundation of the old shower facility and restrooms still sit on top of the hill. The park is rich in history and served as a vacation spot for countless city dwellers looking for a little weekend rest and relaxation.

There also used to be a major amusement park called Walled Lake Park between the Lakeshore Tavern and Walled Lake. There was a major rollercoaster and the park hosted many famous musical acts from Benny Goodman and Louis Armstrong to Stevie Wonder and Ted Nugent. In fact, Mitch Ryder invented stage diving here. In the summer of '64 it was Detroit's biggest rock venue. Walled Lake Park closed in 1968 and is now vacant park land.

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Mountain Kids thanks South Lyon Cycle and Giant!

South Lyon Cycle and Giant Bicycles have donated four brand new mountain bikes to the mountain kids program. We are thrilled to have these bikes in our stable. It will make our kids' experience much better. A big thanks to everyone that helped make that happen. <http://mmba.org/portal.php?h=mountainkids>

2006 Schedule

Wednesday, July 12th 10am-3pm Addison Oaks County Park

Wednesday, August 9th 10am-3pm Addison Oaks County Park

Tentative - Wed, August 16th 10am-3pm Addison Oaks County Park

I'm happy to announce that there will be two more Mountain Kids' Events at Addison Oaks this summer. Bryan Mitchell has been kind enough to run the events this summer while I'm taking care of my baby daughter Campbell. Bryan could use some help, so if you're available during the day, please help him out at Addison Oaks.

If you're available to help can you please contact me or Bryan Mitchell . It would help us out to know who to expect.

Mountain Kids events focus on providing a positive outdoor recreational experience in a "backcountry" setting for children, 8-12, who wouldn't normally have the opportunity to participate in such activities.

Mountain Kids has a traveling stable of ten youth mountain bikes. Mountain Kids volunteer staff trailer the bikes to various event locations around the state of Michigan. Events are held on multi-use trail systems at various state forests and recreation areas.

During each event kids are educated in everything from basic riding skills and bicycle safety to an appreciation for the environment. Events also include a light lunch.

For additional information or to schedule an event, contact Sarah Manning. mountainkids@mmba.org

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906.289.4303
keweenawadventure.com

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Rock 'n' Road Cycle
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rocknroadcycle.com

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Lake Orion

Paint Creek Bicycles
248.693.9620
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Cycle to Fitness
734.266.8203
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Manistee

Bent Crank Bike Shop
231.723.4155

Muskegon

Breakaway Bicycles & Fitness
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breakawaybicycles.com

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rei.com/stores/northville

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dennyscentralparkbikes.com

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speedtrainsvillagecyclery.com

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trails-edge.com

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248.542.7182
americancycleandfitness.com

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Pro-Form Bike Shop
574.272.0129
proformbike.com

South Lyon

South Lyon Cycle
248.437.0500
southlyoncycle.com

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American Cycle & Fitness
586.979.7570
americancycleandfitness.com

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231.947.4274
brickwheels.com

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www.aavc.org

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Breakaway Bicycles & Fitness

www.breakawaybicycles.com

Brick Wheels

www.brickwheels.com

Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival

www.cheqfattire.com

Custer Cyclery

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www.ctbicycles.com

Denny's Central Park Bicycles

www.dennyscentralparkbikes.com

Grayling Area Visitors Council

www.grayling-mi.com

Harbor Springs Cycling Club

www.harborspringscyclingclub.org

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www.rocknroadcycle.com

Speedtrain's Village Cyclery

www.speedtrainsvillagecyclery.com

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www.thunderbaytrails.org

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